



## Topic- Relationship Reconciliation: Dichotomy & Dilemma

On behalf of GSEP, great thanks to our distinguished special guests for their willingness to contribute and share their wealth of expertise with everyone on the platform.

This is a three-part lecture with international guest lecturers.

The purpose of this lecture series is to promote peace and strengthen love in relationships. The objective is to enhance a movement towards educational advancement.

### **Starter questions**

What is love.... really? What exactly is peace in a relationship?

To what extent is love an antecedent of a peaceful relationship? What constitutes a peaceful home?

Moderator: Dr. Kafayat Kehinde Lamidi- The facilitator and moderator of the interactive discussion. She introduces the lecturers and read their profile aloud to the participants (The biographies and photos of the speakers are available on the GSEP website- <https://kafayatkehindelamidi.com> and associated public media).

### **Guest Lecturers**

Speaker 1: Mr. Balogun Mansuur Adewale (Part 1 Virtual Discussion 15.01.2020)

Speaker 2: Barrister Mrs. Hamdalah Bello (Part 2 Live Interview 22.02.2020)

Speaker 3: Dr. Ibrahim Akosile (Part 3 Virtual Conversation 21.03.2020)

Speaker 4: Dr. Falilat Jimoh + Dr. Sariat Adelaku (Part 4 Lecture April 2020)

**Case 1: Not sharing from the onset**

This is a Christian family home. Anthony (the husband) and Anthonia (the wife) wedding was just two years when Anthony requested for Anthonia's financial support for his studies. At that time, Anthonia could not provide support due to her own personal project (building a house) which was on the way.

Unfortunately, Anthony could neither progress nor complete his studies. This lack of mutual support/sharing became the primary issue in the relationship. Since then the couple have been experiencing challenges getting along with each other smoothly. Anthonia has done/tried everything to bring Anthony's mind back to her. One vital aspect of her efforts includes giving Anthony all her savings and it is unbelievable that Anthony has not been using the money for anything but saving them. He added: "her money is there whenever she needs them. I am not going to touch a penny".

Anthony believes that his wife's money is no longer useful to him because of the time when he needed it has passed. According to Anthony, his wife is his enemy to progress. This carried on for years. Anthony vowed not to have any sexual affair with his wife. Their only son is now 10 years old. So, Anthony made the decision to move out of their marital home and live alone. Since then Anthony remains single.

*What else could she try?*

**Case 2: Sharing from the onset**

This is a Muslim family home. Saidat (the wife) and Saidi (the husband) wedding was for years when things started to take a turn. Initially, Saidat was the breadwinner of the family and she shared everything with her husband. To the extent that extra income was given to Saidi for his own personal doings.

After the birth of their second child, things changed. This was due to the closure of Saidat's financial source. Now, Saidi must work and provide for the family of four. Contrary to Saidat expectations that Saidi will do the same as she used to do during her own time, this is not the case for Saidi. Saidat describes her husband has a very greedy and selfish man that cannot use his money to play with his 'own self'. Whilst the couple continues to live together, things deteriorate daily. As a coping mechanism, Saidat derives pleasure by disclosing her relationship issues on social media.

*What approach could she have taken?*

**Case 3: Ada and Ade- the competing couples**

Ada married at the age of 35. Given the age that she got married, she always says: “I would do anything and everything to protect my marriage. It must work. I can never be a single parent”. Ada works in a federal university as a senior lecturer and was given the privilege to excel by being sponsored for a doctoral programme abroad. At first, Ada travels abroad without the family with her. After a few months, she would like her husband and four children to join her but could not convince the husband by herself. So, she went through their pastor to help talk to Ade. The consultation with the pastor yields a positive outcome. Finally, Ade agreed to join Ada but on a condition. The condition was that he too want to study without working. So, both couples are simultaneously undertaking a doctorate degree abroad. Things gradually become tougher for Ada who is parenting, working, and studying. So, she had to look for three different jobs for Ade- who has been complaining that he could not find a job.

While Ada plans to return home and continue her job, Ade plans to settle abroad. Given these controversies coupled with other related issues, the circumstances increasingly deteriorate. Though her vow to protecting the relationship from crashing remains intact. However, to Ade, anything is welcome to happen.

*How could the situation be reconciled to keep the protection vow?*

#### **Case 4: Jemila with no children**

Jemila was married to a wealthy family. Three years after marriage, Jemila could no longer bear the in-laws ruling her home for her. Jemila (the wife) aspirations for education led her to return to education thereby required her to travel abroad. When planning the trip, Adam (the husband) gave her two options (i) going abroad and consider the marriage done (ii) staying with him but no further studies. Jemila chose the former. Luckily, she was a government-sponsored candidate. She completed her Ph.D. in Management and got a well-paid teaching profession but without access to her two children. On several occasions, Jemila has attempted and tried to see her children but to no avail. While Adam re-marry, the two children remain with his parents. Also, Jemila remarried and still praying to God for more children.

*How would you describe Jemila?*

#### **Case 5: Blessyn with children**

Like Jemila, Blessyn also has a drive for education. Having enjoyed five years of her marriage, she thought she could win her husband over again by upgrading herself. Unfortunately, after her application was successfully considered for a doctoral programme abroad, Joshua (the husband) no longer support her decision. So, she had to choose between the marriage or the study. The latter was chosen, and she went abroad for her studies leaving the family behind. After a while, Joshua told her to come for the two children. So, Blessyn did. With a baby on the way, caring for two children and coping with the Ph.D. pressure were not easy tasks for her. Unfortunately, after two years on the programme, Blessyn quitted her study but in possession of her three children. Joshua remarried and have other children with his new wife. Blessyn would like to remarry and have more children but still single.

*Would you blame Blessyn for taking the children with her or not?*

*If you find yourself in the shoes of these people, what would you have done differently?*

**Closing Questions:**

Which approach is best for a balanced relationship?

Is there a universal theory to a 'peaceful home'?

What advice do you have for people currently going through similar situations?

What factors inform your own educational aspiration? What drives your educational completion and attainment?

What are some of the strategies that helped you to overcome any barriers obstructing your academic journey?

What recommendations do you have for the government bodies like Department for Education, Department for International Development? Minister for Home Affairs